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Lester Snow:

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It appears that the CALFED process is an attempt to provide deliveries to a growing urban clientele and consumptive agricultural constituency at any cost.

A more rational approach would involve determining the value of the water. Using tables 8.1.1-2 and 8.1.2-2 I have constructed a table as follows:

REGION	IRRIGATED ACRES	ACRE-FEET USED	NET RETURN \$/ACRE	VALUE OF WATER \$/ACRE-FOOT
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER	9,656,000	12,093,000	157.00	126.00

The value of the water should then be compared to the cost of providing additional water to the system. For example, 7 of the 12 alternatives involve a storage component. 700,000 acre-feet of additional water supply could be provided at an annual cost of \$300,000,000 (storage is approximately 1/2 of total costs) for an annual cost of \$429/acre feet. (refer to page 65 and 108 of Phase II Interim Report).

It would seem practical to retire portions of the agricultural land before considering such a scheme. I would suggest that the future water needs of the citizens of California could best be met by retiring agricultural land south of the Delta (i.e. soils producing toxic selenium discharges) Less disruption should result to the fisheries, more water could pass through the Delta to improve salinity conditions. Taxpayers would benefit from a more economical approach.

The Sites Reservoir (most likely storage option in my opinion) has been ranched by the same family since the 1850's. The valley is blessed with a rich alluvial soil covered by grasslands and native oaks. To destroy such a resource when better solutions exist economically and environmentally seems a wasteful tragedy.

I would encourage you not to use the CALFED process to institutionalize business as usual. CALFED should not be a conduit to facilitate unlimited urban growth and legitimize expensive and marginal agriculture.

Reliability, water quality and a better environment for Californians could better be accomplished by retiring farm land south of the Delta.

Sincerely,



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